

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:RRSTRAND

APPROVED BY:AF/C:WLCUTLER

AMB. VANCE

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R 302344Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALAFD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180304

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA2 LINES MISSING)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF ZAIRE PLOT CHARGES

REFS: KINSHASA 6902 (NOTAL); STATE 164792; BUJUMBURA 530
(NOTAL); KIGALI 431 (NOTAL); DAKAR 4333 (NOTAL);
CONAKRY 1047 (NOTAL).

1. IN MEETING WITH MOBUTU JULY 23, AMBASSADOR VANCE
CALLED ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION TO CONTINUING
PLOT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST USG BY CERTAIN ZAIRIAN
REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD. MOBUTU ASSURED VANCE THAT THIS
WOULD STOP, AND WE EXPECT HIM TO TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO
SEE THAT IT DOES. ANY NEW ACTIONS BY ZAIRIAN REPS
WHICH INDICATE THAT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED SHOULD BE
REPORTED IMMEDIATELY.

2. SECOND VANCE VISIT TO KINSHASA JULY 19-25 HAS FURTHERED
PROCESS OF REPAIR AND NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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IN VIEW OF THIS AND OF MOBUTU'S ASSURANCE THAT

REPETITION OF CHARGES AGAINST US WILL CEASE, WE STILL WISH TO AVOID MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE CHARGES. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WANT OUR SILENCE OR THE MUTED NATURE OF OUR DENIALS TO BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE OF CULPABILITY. ADDRESSEES WHO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER EXPLANATION IS EQUIRED TO KEEP HOST GOVERNMENT FROM DRAWING THIS CONCLUSION MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER DRAWING ON POINTS IN SUBPARAS BELOW. THESE ARE DESIGNED FOR USE WITH GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US; THEY SHOULD NOT BE USED WHERE ADDRESSEES JUDGE THAT HOST GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO TREAT CHARGES AS TRUE WHATEVER WE SAY OR WILL TRY TO USE OUR EXPLANATION TO KEEP ISSUE ALIVE AND PROVOKE RENEWED STRAINS BETWEEN USG AND GOZ.

A. WE BELIEVE THE CHARGES AGAINST US WERE THE RESULT MISTAKEN SUSPICION AND HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING. WE BELIEVE SUSPICION AND MISUNDERSTANDING WERE LARGELY REMOVED IN COURSE OF TWO VISITS TO KINSHASA BY AMBASSADOR VANCE, DURING WHICH VANCE WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED AND MET EXTENSIVELY WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU HIMSELF.

B. SINCE THESE CONSULTATIONS , CHARGES AGAINST US HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE ZAIRE PRESS AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ARE NO LONGER BEING REPEATED BY ZAIRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD.

C. WE REGARD THE CHARGES AGAINST US AS HAVING BEEN DROPPED, AND WE THEREFORE SEE NO NEED TO OFFER DETAILED REFUTATION; TO DO SO NOW WOULD SIMPLY REOPEN AN ISSUE WHICH WE REGARD AS CLOSED.

D. WE VALUE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR TRADITIONALLY VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE. INGERSOLL

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